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(54) Stamp formed exhaust muffler with conformal outer shell.

(57) A stamp formed exhaust muffler (10) for mounting on a vehicle is provided. The muffler (10) comprises a plurality of plates (12, 14) secured in juxtaposed relationship and stamp formed to define an array of tubes therebetween. At least one external shell (16, 18) is secured to the internal plates (12, 14) to define at least one chamber which communicates with the array of tubes. The external shell (18) includes a conformal area (66) which permits the muffler to conform to the shape of a structure on the vehicle. The conformal area (66) may be an area of generally arcuate concavity when viewed from the exterior of the muffler or may define an internal corner on the muffler. Thus, a plane or line connecting two locations on the conformal area of the external shell will pass through the interference zone of a structure on the vehicle.

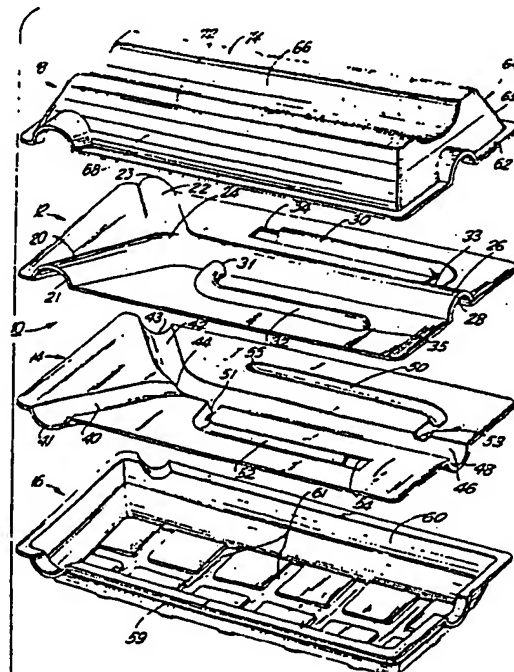


FIG. 1